

Book Review : "Sustainable Logistics and Supply Chain Management"

Author: David B Grant, Alexander Trautrimis & Chee Yew Wong
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Reviewed by: Adwait S. Oak

The book, 'Sustainable Logistics and Supply Chain Management', as the title suggests focuses mainly on the principles and practices to make Logistics & Supply Chain Management (SCM) functions sustainable from the operations as well as strategic management point of view.

The three authors of this book, being experts in the area of Logistics & SCM, have written the book in a very systematic & structured manner. The book is divided into nine chapters, each chapter dealing with one facet of how logistics and SCM functions can be made sustainable. In order to support their views, the authors have discussed 27 case-studies, which are very relevant to the areas of discussion. The book takes a holistic view across the supply chain from the point of origin to the point of consumption.

Globalization has meant that many products are no longer manufactured in local/national markets, but are outsourced and manufactured in lesser-developed countries, particularly in Asia, and then shipped all around the world. In such a scenario, the ways and means of how the global organizations take care to ensure sustainability of their SCM function, are discussed effectively.

Chapter-1 titled 'Logistics & Supply Chain Management' provides an overview of logistics & SCM activities and contemporary thought about sustainability as it pertains to the two functions, including their impact on the natural environment and the eco-system, and vice-versa. This chapter urges the organizations to be more lean, agile and responsive.

Chapter-2 titled 'Science of Sustainability' debates about the environmental and climate change including phenomena such as the Greenhouse effect and the impact of human activity on natural resources such as minerals, oils, gas and water.

Chapter-3 titled 'Freight Transport' describes how transportation of goods is a major contributor to the

logistics & SCM environmental debate due to its overwhelming importance in the supply chain and its very visible presence. Topics include the nature of various freight transport modes, trends in global freight issues of emissions, fuel consumption and congestion, and the evolution of technology to assist greener transport alternatives.

Chapter-4 titled 'Sustainable Warehousing' discusses how, after transportation, storage facilities in the form of factories, warehouses and distribution centres contribute to the second largest logistical & supply chain impact on the natural environment. Topics in this chapter include designing green warehouses and inherited emissions from construction materials, reducing resources consumption in existing warehouses, location of warehouses and network design, LEED and BREEAM certifications for sustainable facilities.

Chapter-5 titled 'Product Design, Cleaner Production and Packaging' takes the storage discussion further by considering issues related to product design, production and packaging. Topics here include, environmental product design to use less materials i.e. design for environment, novel production methods that consume less energy/natural resources and produce less pollution; and packaging for logistics versus the environment i.e. reusable packaging and recycling of packaging materials.

Chapter-6 titled 'Sustainable Purchasing and Procurement' considers sustainable procurement and supplier relationships that are important pre-requisites for the production process. Topics in this chapter include drivers and barriers for environmental or green purchasing, procurement frameworks and a product lifecycle assessment.

Chapter-7 titled 'Reverse Logistics and Recycling' discusses reverse logistics and recycling that are important factors for transportation and storage functions. Topics include reverse-loop product recovery options such as refurbishing, remanufacturing, cannibalization & recycling and current

* Assistant Professor, Vishwakarma Institute of Management, Pune and can be reached at adwaitoak@vim.ac.in

global regulatory frameworks.

Chapter-8 titled 'Risk, Corporate Social Responsibility and Ethics' takes a holistic perspective of risk, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and ethics relating to logistics and SCM. Topics include the wider scope of CSR including environmental sustainability and social responsibility, the different risks affecting a global supply chain including environmental disasters, ethical models and the notion of 'Green wash' and global & industrial initiatives that promote economic, environmental and social sustainability.

Finally, Chapter-9 titled 'Sustainable Logistics and SCM Strategy' provides an overview of how firms can incorporate environmental considerations in strategies including

accounting for related costs and benefits. Topics included in this chapter are strategic planning for sustainability, the redesign of supply chain networks, sustainable logistics and supply chain performance measurement, and environmental cost trade-offs in logistics systems and supply chains.

Each chapter in the book is designed to be read and considered on its own, but the flow of the chapters is very well maintained. The case-studies discussed are very apt to the concepts being discussed.

Overall, the book is a good, precise and useful read for professionals as well as academicians in the field of SCM.